Mineral Reserves in Bihar

*378. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bihar has the largest number of mineral resrves in the country;

(b) whether the Geological Survey of India have conducted any survey in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to exploit these minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Bihar is endowed with several economic minerals deposits and is one among the few states in India which is rich in mineral wealth.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted the survey for all the major minerals of Bihar the important once being, Bauxite, Copper, Coal, Chromite, Iron Ore, Gold, Apatite, Asbestos, Fire-Clay, Graphite, Kyanite, Limestone, Mica, Tin, Pyrite, Felspar, Vermiculite, Lepidolite, Baryte, Andalusite, Nickel-Cobalt, Talc-steatite, etc.

(d) Any exploration/exploitation agency is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting prospecting licence/mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder and in the light of the New National Mineral Policy, 1993 anounced by the Government of India.

[English]

Expenditure on Aviation Fuel

*379. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has to spend Rs. 200 crore more on aviation fuel during the current financial year then originally estimated;

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure on Airline's fuel against the original estimate;

(c) the reasons for pushing such burden; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) The actual expenditure on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) for 1996-97 is likely to be Rs. 758.82 crores as against the budget estimate of Rs. 753.53 crores. The excess in expenditure is mainly due to increase in average fuel consumption and prices of ATF.

[Translation]

Per Capita Average of Telephone Connections

*380. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita average of telephone connection in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the demand of telephone connection is increasing due to the increase of population rapidly;

(c) if so, the extent upto which the target of providing one telephone connection per hundred persons has been achieved; and

(d) the number of telephone connection likely to be provided during 1997-98 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) The demand of telephone connections is increasing due to the rise in per capita income in India. Population increase also contributes to an increase in demand.

(c) The target of providing one telephone connection per hundred persons has already been achieved for the country.

(d) The target of providing 29 lakh telephone connections (DELs) has been set for the year 1997-98.

Statement

Statewise per capita average of telephone connections as on 31.03.96.

S.No.	State	Per capita average number of telephone connections (Per person)	(Per 100 Population)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.0111	1.11
2.	Assam	0.0043	0.43
3.	Bihar	0.0030	0.30
4.	Gujarat (a)	0.0200	2.00
5.	Haryana	0.0159	1.59
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.0184	1.84
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.0059	0.59
8.	Karnataka	0.0159	1.59
9.	Kerala (b)	0.0220	2.20
10.	Madhya Pradesh	0.0084	0.84
11.	Maharashtra (c)	0.0276	2.76
12.	North East (d)	0.0069	0.69
13.	Orissa	0.0048	0.48
14.	Punjab (e)	0.0247	2.47